ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A focus error detecting device for an optical pickup having an aberration correcting lens group includes a diffraction optical element having an outer diameter which is smaller than a diameter of the light beam after aberration correction, and selectively diffracting light passing through an annular portion with an optical axis as a center in a plane perpendicular to the optical axis of the light beam; and a photodetector which detects the light diffracted by the diffraction optical element. The annular portion includes a portion in which residual ray aberration after aberration correction by the lens group is the smallest.